

# Weekly Views

## Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Then summer fades and passes and October comes. We'll smell smoke then, and feel an unexpected sharpness, a thrill of nervousness, swift elation, a sense of sadness and departure." ~ Thomas Wolfe*

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Director of Emergency Response Operations Mike Jayne recently participated in the Torch Ride for Special Olympics of Indiana. Mr. Jayne represented the IDOC and was the top fundraiser and the lead rider for the 2 hour-long Torch Ride.

In recognition of National Recovery Month, 2002 Camp Summit Graduate Ben Johnson offered a presentation to Camp Summit students, staff, and Community Advisory Board members on his past struggles and how he overcame addictions.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a vocational education graduation ceremony where 84 offenders received certificates in recognition of completing Auto Body, Carpentry, Barbering, Printing, or Welding programs.

Parole District 3 in Indianapolis carried out its first "Lifting up Sobriety" celebration for National Recovery Month. 50 balloons were released in front of the office celebrating those who have overcome addiction and are on the path to sobriety.

Madison Correctional Facility received the "Mission Partner Award" from Turning Point Domestic Violence Services this week in recognition of the Domestic Violence Conference that was held in conjunction with Turning Point.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility held an Inside-Out Prison Exchange Conference. The program gives residents the opportunity to participate in a college class at the facility with students from IUPUI.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility raised \$70 for the State Employees' Community Campaign during a chili cook off.

Mike Meyers, manager of the Summit Farm at the Indiana State Prison, received a letter of commendation from the LaPorte County Red Cross for donating 800 watermelons to various shelters, food kitchens, food pantries and daycare centers.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted the regional Community Advisory Board meeting. The program addressed National Recovery Month by including a presentation by a Therapeutic Community inmate, who had rejected a modified sentence for early release. He felt completing the TC program was more important than going home right away.

Since July 01, 2008, the IDOC has been awarded over \$5.27 million in grant funding, including grants for offender re-entry, victim notification, juvenile offender case management and services, adult and juvenile education, and much more.

Branchville's Therapeutic Communities created posters and fliers, which were displayed throughout the facility in celebration of National Recovery Month. Offenders wrote songs, poems, and stories and created and performed skits about recovery.

Approximately 72 Parolees from the Evansville Parole District attended CareerFest Fall 2008. CareerFest is the largest and most respected job fair in the Tri-state area, bringing together qualified applicants with quality employers.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its first Master Student to Master Employee Graduation Ceremony for 10 students.

Camp Summit sponsored 2 staff training sessions this week on suicide prevention through the Jason Foundation and the Office of the Indiana Attorney General as part of Indiana's Safe Student Initiative.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently held a PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend, bringing 12 couples together for intense talks about expectations, commitment, feeling understood and forgiveness.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility residents were given the opportunity to write down an addiction put it into a balloon filled with helium. Residents released the balloons all at once to signify escaping from their problems.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to honor 37 graduates of the facility's GED Program.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*